



HOW TO THINK ABOUT COMMUNISM

49-5939

HOW TO THINK ABOUT COMMUNISM



Much of this booklet has been
reprinted with permission from
THE WHOLE OF THEIR LIVES

by

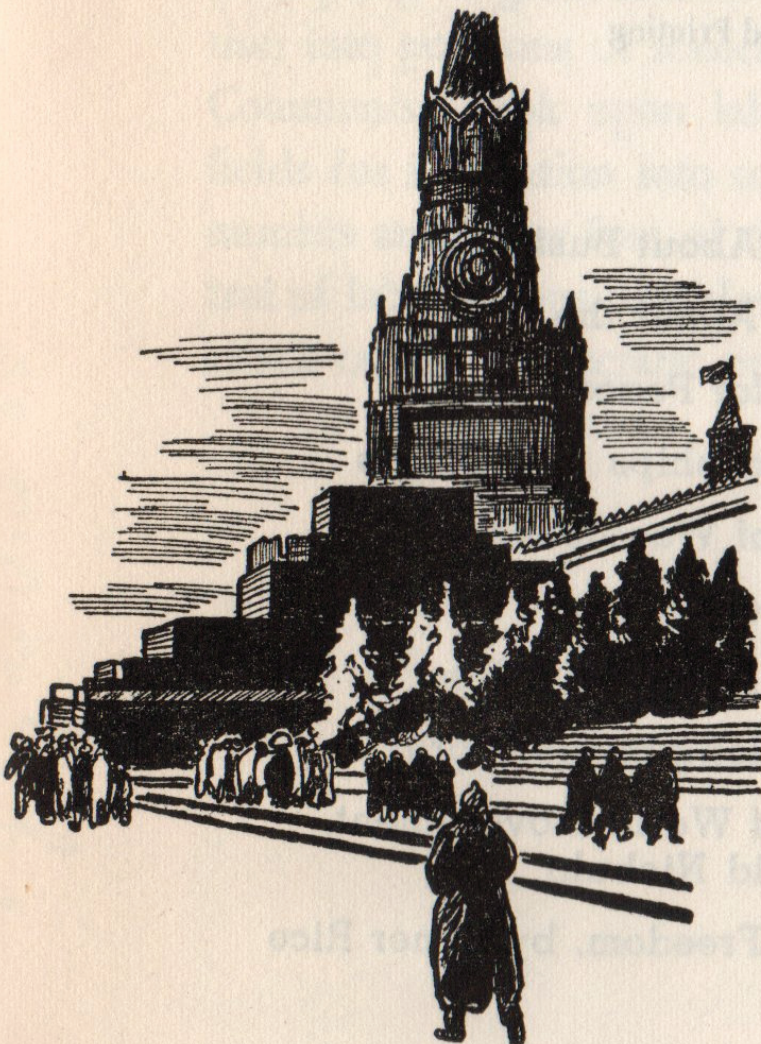
BENJAMIN GITLOW



Illustrated

by

WILLIAM SHARP





Copyrighted 1948 and 1949
by BENJAMIN GITLOW and
THE GRAPHICS GROUP
Second Printing

IN THIS SERIES:

How to Think About Business
How to Think About the U. N.
How to Work for Peace
Human Relationships in Business
Rufus Woods of Wenatchee
East Indies Story
How to Think About Your Job
How to Get Along in the World
The Illusion of World Government,
by Reinhold Niebuhr
The Supreme Freedom, by Elmer Rice

Price: 25 cents

HWS83
H83

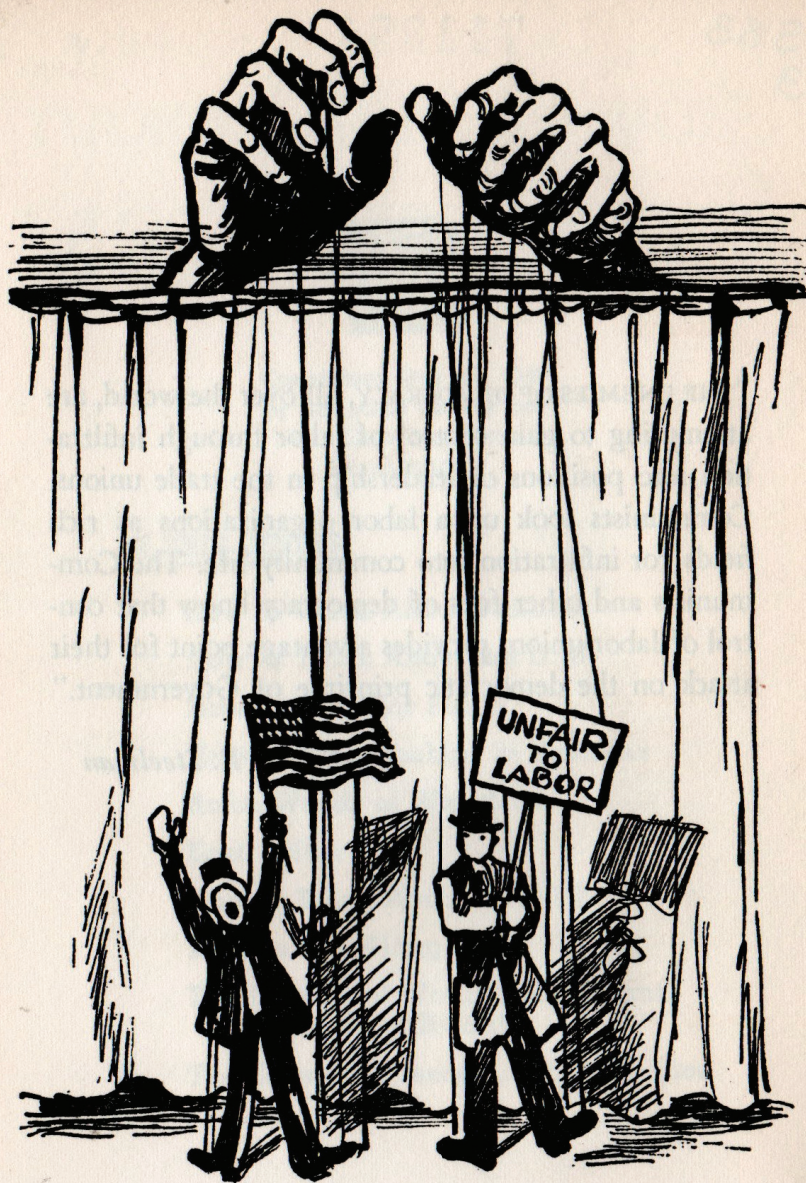
711354

"THE ENEMIES OF DEMOCRACY, all over the world, are attempting to gain control of labor through infiltration into positions of leadership in the trade unions. Communists look upon labor organizations as rich fields for infiltration into community life. The Communists and other foes of democracy know that control of labor unions provides a vantage point for their attack on the democratic principle of Government."

—Hon. John R. Steelman

1 July 50 Oct 25

[3]



[4]

THE Communists regularly align themselves with all that's "for the common good"—for peace, security, high wages, better conditions—everything that honest liberals and working people generally want. They stand at every intersection of the road to a better life and graciously point out the short cuts to all these highly desirable ends.

But the Soviet-controlled American Communists aren't actually working toward those beneficent ends; it's better for their plans if no one gets too much out of life under our system. They are interested only in trapping those people who do honestly want better things for everyone, and using them for Communist purposes.

A recently published book, *The Whole of Their Lives*,* by Benjamin Gitlow, one of the chief architects of the early Communist party in the U. S., is in many ways the most revealing of all statements on this subject.

* Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, \$3.50.

[5]

The missing pieces to many jigsaw puzzles are here: Why can't nations negotiate with Russia? *Because Russia doesn't recognize any obligation to keep promises.* Why have labor-management relations in the U. S. steadily degenerated? *One reason is because Moscow so willed and planned it.* Why have many ex-Communists, on occasion, disappeared without explanation? *Because Moscow has a technique once used more clumsily on a smaller scale by Capone and Dutch Schulz (both of whom have at times been in the pay of Moscow through the U. S. Communist Party when their particular talents would aid "the class struggle").* Why do people sometimes unwittingly find themselves tools of the Communists and then decide they must stay stooges even though they hate it? *Because Stalin's domestic army includes expert blackmailers as well as murderers, arsonists, thieves and petty racketeers of all kinds.*

Gitlow knows them all by name, and in most cases he puts down their names in black and white—a practice that would create a most uncomfortable future for him if he didn't know what he was talking about.

And Gitlow is a reliable, dependable man. He publicly defied Stalin in Moscow, (and lived to tell the tale) when Stalin and his friends were

first making into a personal racket a way of life which Gitlow then believed to be a high form of civilization. For several years he has been a respected citizen of New York State.

How to Understand the World Situation

The spectacular double-dealing of Soviet Russia, as outlined in official reports on the Berlin Crisis, leaves the western world agape. "There must be some explanation," we say. "Nobody could say one thing today and do something else tomorrow!" For we in this country find it hard to conceive of such outright duplicity in high places.

Yet, when the evidence is in, we find that just such duplicity has been the measure by which the Soviets have gained their power and built their empire, set up fifth columns in the U. S. and most other countries, and expect to conquer the world. They apparently believe that carefully managed duplicity is a modern type of warfare for which there is no defense; that Stalin can be a modern Genghis Khan by trading on the psychology of the weak, the ambitions of the

greedy, and the hopes and convictions of humanitarians. The wholly insincere philosophy of the Moscow gang has a hypnotic influence over those who trail along through gullibility, fear, or blindness.

Perhaps as many as 100,000 people in the U. S. are members of the Communist Party—some native born, most of them foreign or of foreign extraction, practically all of them citizens of the nation they have sworn to wreck. But the influence and potentialities of the Communist Party extend far beyond its membership. Organization, discipline, singlemindedness of purpose and deceit on the part of Party members, and vast, shrewd propaganda methods and devastating techniques have been developed, perfected, and spread around the globe.

And that is largely responsible for the present plight of the world.

"The American Communist Party," says Ben Gitlow, "is part of an international organization serving the interests of one of the world's great powers. The party serves that power slavishly, as the American link in an international conspiracy which has for its objective Soviet world supremacy. The job of



the Communist Party of the United States is to so undermine the foundations upon which American democracy rests that the United States Government can be overthrown and the country made a vassal of the Soviet state. The American Communist Party is not bound by principles in carrying out its end of the conspiracy; nor does it respect American traditions or the laws of the country."

Louis Budenz at the recent Communist trials in New York went a step further: he explained that, but for a sudden and unexpected flip-flop on the part of Russia, the American Communists would have tried to launch a civil war in this country at the start of the late war.

Moscow once sent an agent over here, financed him well, and told him to find out what are the real foundations of our democracy. He did. He directed that America would totter if enough damage could be done to:

The sanctity of the home and family
Religious beliefs
Labor-management relations
Respect for leadership

Moscow, working through its U. S. party, went to work on all these fronts, and irreparable damage has been done. Gitlow's book describes this work in detail; but to take just one example, let's look at the havoc wrought in U. S. industry.

How the Communists Took Over Many U. S. Unions and Created Strike Techniques

In many respects the relationship between labor and management is a cornerstone in the foundation of the American way of living, for here is the very root of our strength. Here is the heart of our production; and as Wendell Willkie said, only the productive can be free.

On the labor-management front, the Communists went to work with great skill, high-sounding philosophy, and utter disregard for the welfare of the working man—presumably the inheritor of all blessings in a Communistic regime.

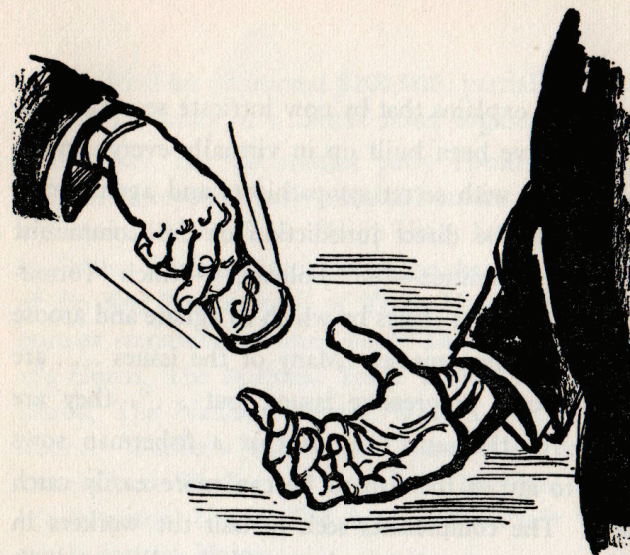
The first step in the campaign to control the nation's unions, Gitlow reveals, was taken in 1921, when, at Moscow, plans were laid to assassinate the character of Samuel Gompers, the leading labor leader of the day, and bring his A.F. of L. into the orbit of the Communist Party. Moscow financed William Z. Foster, himself secretly a Communist holding down a position of trust in the A.F. of L., in a study

of how it should be done. At a convention of U. S. Communists in 1922, called by Moscow, attended and supervised by Moscow agents, and held in a Michigan woods, Foster revealed his plan. . . .

"Samuel Gompers, the founder and President of the American Federation of Labor, was to be bodily kicked out of the trade union movement, a beaten and disgraced man.... Issues were to be projected in the unions for the purpose of arousing the rank-and-file... the Communists were to build up their own organization within the trade union structure... (and)... hide their identity and establish secret trade union cells in the unions in which the Communists got a foothold."

From 1921 to 1928, Moscow sent Foster hundreds of thousands of dollars to finance its cold war on the trade unions because:

"Union control in the hands of the communists enables them to keep a loaded shotgun at the head of the government by using the economic and political power of the organized workers. A push of a button on the ninth floor of Communist party headquarters on 13th Street could then silence the wheels of in-



dustrial and halt transportation on land, over the sea and in the air. The wide network of communications, radio, telephone, telegraph, the press and the postal services, the nerves without which modern industrial life is impossible, would come to rest like dead leaves on a cold, calm autumn day. That is what the communists are after in their fight to become the masters of the trade unions. The moment the American Communist party captures control of the unions in the vital industries of the country, atom bomb or no atom bomb, the stage is set for the overthrow of the American government and world revolution."

Gitlow explains that by now intricate secret organizations have been built up in virtually every American union, with secret sympathizers and agents coming under the direct jurisdiction of the Communist political committee—the “Polcom,”—which “formulates the popular issues by which to agitate and arouse the trade union masses. Many of the issues . . . are good issues, progressive issues, but . . . they are raised for the same reasons that a fisherman sows bait—to attract the fish so he can more easily catch them. The communists seek to bait the workers in order to capture their unions and thereby put both the unions and the workers under their influence and domination.”

Within three years after Moscow ordered the broadside against Gompers, the Communist party, with a paid up membership of only 20,000, had become an important factor in nearly 50 major American unions. The disciplined Communist party—plus a great deal of money from Moscow—made this possible. When the Communists attempted to take over the United Mine Workers of America, Moscow made an initial contribution of \$100,000, and followed that with another \$150,000, to which the Communist

party added an additional \$200,000, partially by robbing the treasury of a miners' relief organization.

By 1929, the Communist party operated a large number of revolutionary industrial unions which were affiliated with the Trade Union Unity League, headed by Foster. This league acted as the American section of the Red International of Trade Unions. The important communist unions were: The National Miner's Union, The National Trade Worker's Industrial Union, The National Textile Worker's Union, The Marine Worker's Industrial Union, The Amalgamated Food Workers of America, The Food Worker's Industrial Union, The Auto and Aircraft Worker's Industrial Union.

How the Communists Operate in Unions As Reported by Gitlow

“The Communist party employs a three-flank attack upon the trade unions requiring skilled generalship in its execution, based . . . on the collective intelligence of a staff which includes the best brains of Russia as well as members of the Central Executive Committee of the Communist party and its Polcom. The attacks on the three flanks of the trade unions are carried on simultaneously, for each one is of importance and serves a specific purpose.



1. The Union Member

"The first one is directed at the rank-and-file members of the unions. Its strategy involves the employment of issues which appear desirable and attractive to the workers, issues that do not sound fantastic and beyond the realm of realization, such as higher wages, shorter hours, unemployment benefits and political demands upon the government. There are times when the communist demands are legitimate. Usually the demands are made sufficiently exorbitant to arouse the opposition of the trade union officials who know that the demands cannot be realized without a prolonged, bitter struggle that would wreck the unions. The mass of the workers, agitated by the communist demands for increased earnings and better conditions, resent the opposition on the part of their officials to the demands.

"This agitation around economic and political issues is coupled with a direct appeal to the unemployed workers who, because of their desperate condition, most easily succumb to communist propaganda, particularly that section of the unemployed who are permanently unemployed because of the lack of skill and shiftlessness. The slum elements of the unions

become the communists' most excellent material for they have lots of time to spare for communist activity."

2. *The Union Leader*

"The second-flank attack is directed against the union leaders who oppose the communists. In this attack no quarter is given. The trade union official must submit to the demands of the communists or face character assassination and extermination. The most ridiculous charges are made against them, which seldom are warranted. The purpose behind this attack is so to blacken the trade union officials that the trade unionists will loathe and despise them. A persistent hate campaign is carried on at union meetings, at union headquarters, through special mass meetings in the communist and left wing press, by grapevine rumors and by tons of printed and mimeographed material, for the purpose of undermining the workers' trust in their leaders and thus paving the way for a new, communist leadership.

"By this tactic the union officials are forced to take measures against the communists, which the communists use to inflame the workers against their officials by charging the officials with Red baiting and with

barring from the union honest trade unionists and militants who have the courage to fight for the workers' interests. Thus the internal war in the unions which the communists do not control begins as an interminable wrangle and develops into a bloody conflict in which fists, blackjacks, knives and automatics are used."

3. *The Crooked Deals*

"The third-flank attack of the communists . . . may be termed the behind-the-scenes diplomatic war . . . conducted by the communist officials with the trade union officials for the purpose of gaining an objective by making deals beneficial to both. In every trade union campaign of significance the communists are busy manipulating behind closed doors. Trade union officials are bought off, sometimes outright with money, more often by supporting them for well-paying posts in the unions. It was done among the miners with a host of miners' officials. Many of these officials hold down important posts today in the C.I.O. as organizers and special representatives. The communists took over the Furriers Union by making deals with officials, with cliques of gangsters,



with racketeers and underworld elements. In the International Ladies Garment Workers Union the same tactics were employed.

"In carrying out this tactic the communists are not bothered with scruples. They forget one day what they called certain trade union officials the day before. They unite with the worst gangster and racketeer elements even though they have made it a point in their trade union campaign to call for their eradication from the unions. They have made deals on occasions with Lepke, with Benny the Dope, with Al Capone, with Dutch Schulz and other underworld figures of that type to serve their ambitions in the unions. In deals to obtain union advantages for the communist party, the communists have abandoned principles to secure paid trade union posts for communists . . . their course in the unions is not guided by principles or by an urge to serve the interests of the workers, but by a lust for power."

The Technique of Strikes

Gitlow points out that

"if the employers think that industrial peace depends only upon maintaining satisfactory rela-

tions with the unions, they are badly mistaken. That situation no longer prevails, for a new factor has entered the industrial field, the Communist party, which has demonstrated repeatedly that it must be accounted for in strike situations."

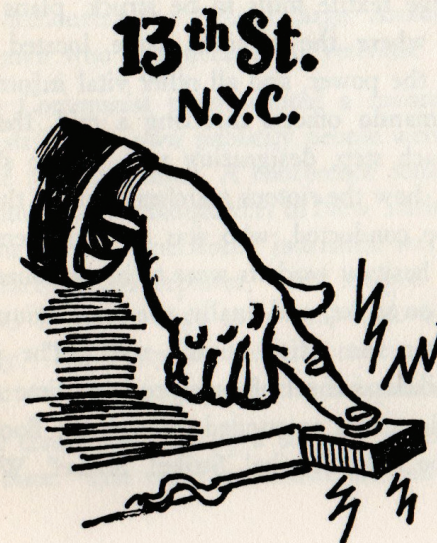
Mass picketing has been developed and spread by the Communist party. It was developed to dramatize strike situations, and to help channel them into the political arena.

In other words, the Communists are considerably less interested in strikes as a means to better working conditions, than they are in the utilization of strikes as press-agent stunts to lure more people into the liberal and eventually the Communist orbit.

"The Communists are not primarily concerned with the fate of the workers out on strike," reports Gitlow. "It has been drilled into their heads by Lenin and by theses and instructions from Moscow that strikes are never definitely lost and that defeat can be turned into a victory for the Communist party if the Party exploits the strike situation properly. This communist attitude on strikes is part of the wider theory that, under certain conditions, the more violent a worker's demonstration becomes, the more

brutally the demonstration is crushed by clubbing and bloodshed, the better for the Party. It has been pointed out to the Communist party repeatedly by the experienced strategists of revolution, that situations in which workers are killed can become great assets for the Party. Should the labor situation become acute, and a state of political instability set in, the Communist party will most surely instigate bloody riots in which innocent people will be killed."

As an example of the way the Communists have created and led many of the major strikes of the past twenty years, Ben Gitlow gives you his personal



experience in the famous Passaic Textile Workers' Strike.

"The strike was called when the Communist party decided it had enrolled in a rump union a sufficient number of workers in the mills, at the time not more than 10 percent. A committee made up of Communist party members, not one of whom was a textile worker, sat up night and day plotting the strike. The union just carried out the orders which the Party committee gave it. The Party committee, on the eve of the calling of the strike, had before it floor plans of the large textile mills to be struck, plans which indicated where the switches were located which controlled the power, and all other vital information. Like commando officers directing a raid, the Party planned each step, designating who was to shut off the power, how the riotous marches through the mills were to be conducted, who was to lead them, how the timid, hesitant workers were to be bulldozed into going out on strike, and finally, the hour, minute and second when the action should start. The perfect timing worked as if set off by a precision time switch. A tremendous roar resounded through the floors and halls of the mills, 'Strike! Strike! Strike!' Workers

who knew their cue grabbed poles and clubs, unfurled banners and marched in an ever swelling procession through the huge mill floors, the noise rising in an ever-increasing crescendo, and the great strike which startled the nation and reached the White House and the Halls of Congress was on.

"In the Passaic strike the communists showed the country what an all-out total strike was like. They staged militant and picturesque picket demonstrations. Helmets, overseas hats and uniforms of World War I were bought up in large quantities. The strikers and the captains of the picket line who were communists were dressed up in these. They staged huge picket demonstrations behind large American flags led by men who masqueraded as veterans.

"The Communist party wanted a favorable press on the strike. Its own publicity people were not getting the proper results. A conference took place at Communist party headquarters in New York at which the advice of an experienced journalist was accepted. An attractive girl reporter, who obliged the male reporters in more ways than one, took over strike publicity. The Party learned and never forgot how glamour and sex can pay off in good publicity.

"The communists set up a strikers' relief committee at once. The relief committee did an excellent

job of organizing kitchens and feeding the strikers. From the funds collected, enough money remained to colonize Passaic with scores of paid communist organizers and to route others throughout the country, to siphon off thousands of dollars into the Party treasury and to pay for the financing of the Party's factional strifes.

"A Communist party organization sprang up in Passaic where one did not exist before. Every branch of the communist organization, from the Women's Department to the youth section, sent organizers into Passaic to exploit the situation. Even the tiny tots were organized in the Junior Young Communist League and taken out on a school strike.

"Other forms of violence backed up the violence on the picket lines. Bombs were exploded at the homes of workers who refused to join the strike . . . (and) in the Botany Mills . . . the Party secured a specialist for the job, a Russian communist from Pittsburgh who got a job as a scab in the mill."

The First Conquest: The Needle Trades

The first unions to come wholly under the control of the Communists were the needle trade unions of New York. Gitlow reports:

"The fight for control of the needletrade unions

was the bloodiest and costliest internal war in labor history. All the weapons in the communist arsenal were used; attack, retreat, counter-attack, stilettos, blackjacks, guns, burning acids, sabotage, assault, murder, demonstrations, mob violence, the breaking up of union meetings, and the raiding of union offices. This was accompanied by the expenditure of fabulous sums of money, the dissipation of millions of dollars of union funds, the employment of lawyers with political connections by the payment of exorbitant fees, the buying up of gangsters and racketeers and their inclusion in the communist front, the bribery of the police and the corruption of the courts."

Next they took over control of the Furriers Union, and in 1926 they maneuvered one of the bloodiest strikes in history. It is interesting to note that Moscow, the Communist party, and thousands of generous but deceived Americans, contributed more than \$3,000,000 spent in this strike—of which only \$600,000 went for the relief of the strikers. "The balance went to bribe the police, to pay lawyers handsome fees with which to fix the courts in which strike violence cases came up, to provide for the upkeep of gangsters and sabotage squads, for the upkeep of halls and other expenses. A part of the money was

also siphoned off into the Communist party treasury. . . ."

"The Communist party utilized the Furriers strike to perfect a terrorist organization trained in the art of violence and sabotage. They developed into the shock troops of the Communist party who could be shifted from city to city, from strike to strike, and into situations where the Party needed trained men and women expert in the use of knives, revolvers, blackjacks and poison gas bombs; saboteurs who knew how to ruin merchandise, wreck plants and destroy property. The Furriers strike served to drive home to the Party members the fact that violence held a foremost place in the movement. The long, sharp knife with the pointed blade that snapped out of its handle at the press of a button became a coveted prize of Party members. At headquarters they took them out and displayed them with pride. The strong-arm men who gloated about their bloody exploits were the popular heroes of the red Amazons and were held in high esteem by both rank-and-filers and leaders. . . .

"At a banquet given in their honor at the end of the strike the Party leaders honored the members of the gang in speeches, praising their work and pointing out the significance of keeping them together as

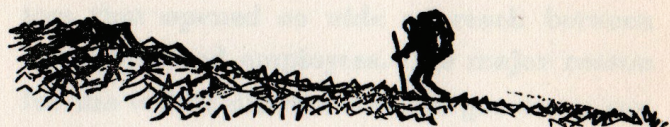
a special organization of the Party. They were hailed as the heroes of the class war and the revolution to come, the shock troops of communism."

And so, the Communists went through union after union, industry after industry—preying upon rank and file members who had no way of knowing that they were being used to further an alien cause. It proves again that eternal vigilance is the price of liberty.

Thus, history at last records one of the factors that opened so wide a breach between employers and employees. One major reason for the veil of distrust that has grown up can now be seen as the result of carefully-planned, irresponsible, destructive manipulations in which millions of solid, intelligent Americans have unknowingly played the part of stooges to an evil, self-seeking group in Moscow, whose actions are so scheming that just to record them is to court disbelief and suspicion. "It can't happen like that!" you say.

But it does. At factories, in schools, in Union halls, in community meetings—and in the chambers of the United Nations. Liberals who honestly want a better life for all must not, in their enthusiasm, fall into the traps so carefully set for them.

There are many ways to get lost on the long, hard road to Utopia—beware of the people who are too eager to point out the short cuts.



This is No. 7 in a series
of Graphics Group books
about current subjects.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
★ *All you need* ★
★ *to know . . .* ★
★ *Not too much* ★
★ *to read* ★
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

89095803813



b89095803813a

A FEW OTHER GRAPHICS GROUP BOOKS THAT WILL INTEREST YOU.

Books of the Graphics Group aspire to be fresh and stimulating. They contain rock-bottom thinking and information, happily without the padding of needless words.

Among the titles now available are these:

How to THINK About the United Nations helps us to understand what goals the world's most important organization is attempting to accomplish. This pamphlet has won high praise.

How to WORK for Peace outlines a practical program of action in which every citizen may participate. All men of good will wish for permanent peace but many feel frustrated in any personal effort to aid its accomplishment—for them, here are answers to their dilemma.

How to THINK About Business realistically views the ways we Americans make our living and keep our country strong. Here is not an apology for American business, but rather a reaffirmation of faith in its strength and essential rightness.

Human Relationships in Business analyzes in memorable fashion how the leaders of government, industry and labor get along fairly well together—or fail to. When the latter happens, the reasons are too often based on misunderstanding and false premises. Forward-looking representatives of labor and management acclaim this discussion as uniquely constructive.

Rufus Woods of Wenatchee tells the story of a small town newspaper editor who became the spearhead of a wonderful, often discouraging, always exciting drive to build Grand Coulee Dam—a self-appointed task in which he succeeded after 20 years of untiring, selfless service to a community idea. It is an inspirational and often amusing story of the kind of people who make progress possible in these United States.

How to THINK About Your Job presents the ideas of Stanley Brown, prominent banker, who believes success depends on how you plan for it, organize your talents to achieve it.

East Indies Story tells the past and present of a fascinating region that is destined to have a vital role in the struggle between democratic and totalitarian countries. Beautifully illustrated.

8 for \$1

25¢
5 for \$1

8 for \$1

25¢
5 for \$1

25¢
5 for \$1

25¢
5 for \$1

\$1.00

Order these books from the Graphics Group, Whitestone, L. I., N.

PRINTED IN U.S.A.